

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

110

February 13, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write today to express our concerns with your decision to block Spot On, Boomerang Wireless, KonaTel, FreedomPop, AR Designs, Kajeet, Liberty, Northland Cable, and Wabash Independent Networks from participating in the Lifeline program for subsidized broadband Internet access.

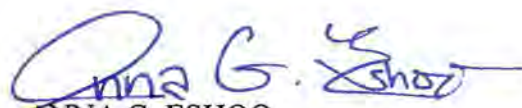

Millions of households across the country rely on having access to affordable Internet service. You have said yourself that you want to see universal broadband coverage in this country. Expanding Internet access will lead to more jobs in technology and new innovations.

Your action will hurt those in our country that need the most help. The founder of Kajeet, one of the companies you blocked, said he is concerned about the poor children they serve. He said "*We partner with school districts—41 states and the District of Columbia—to provide educational broadband so that poor kids can do their homework.*" Mr. Chairman, your arbitrary decision will hurt poor children and widen the digital divide. The American people deserve better.

By reversing the decision made by your predecessor, you are reducing, not expanding, Internet access. We ask that you reconsider the Commission's decision to remove the nine companies. We look forward to your response

Sincerely,

  
BO KHANNA  
Member of Congress  
  
RON KIND  
Member of Congress

  
ANNA G. ESHOO  
Member of Congress  
  
MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress



JIM McGOVERN  
Member of Congress



PETER WELCH  
Member of Congress




JOSE E. SERRANO  
Member of Congress




PRAMILA JAYAPAL  
Member of Congress



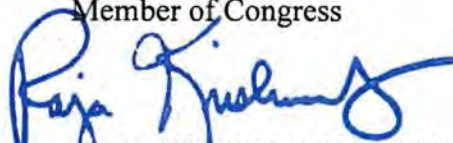
MATT CARTWRIGHT  
Member of Congress



KATHERINE M. CLARK  
Member of Congress




BARBARA LEE  
Member of Congress



RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY  
Member of Congress



ZOE LOFGREN  
Member of Congress




RAUL GRIJALVA  
Member of Congress



MARK POCAN  
Member of Congress



TED W. LIEU  
Member of Congress



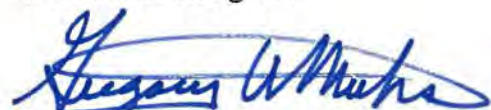
JERROLD NADLER  
Member of Congress



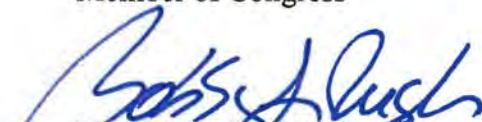
HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON  
Member of Congress



JAMIE RASKIN  
Member of Congress



GREGORY W. MEEKS  
Member of Congress



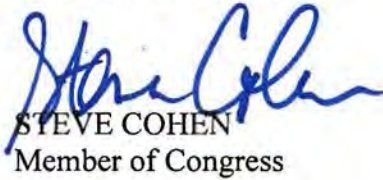
BOBBY L. RUSH  
Member of Congress



ERIC SWALWELL  
Member of Congress



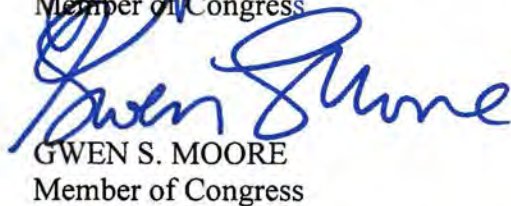
  
JACKIE SPEIER  
Member of Congress

  
STEVE COHEN  
Member of Congress

  
JUAN VARGAS  
Member of Congress

  
GRACE MENG  
Member of Congress

  
JARED POLIS  
Member of Congress

  
GWEN S. MOORE  
Member of Congress

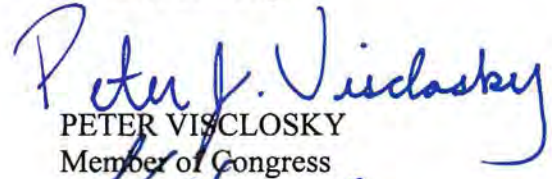
  
DARREN SOTO  
Member of Congress

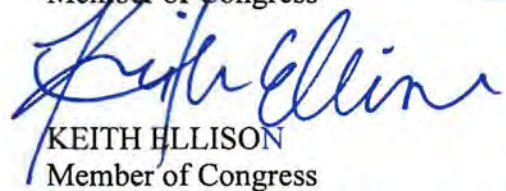
  
JOHN YARMUTH  
Member of Congress

  
JIMMY PANETTA  
Member of Congress

  
JOHN GARAMENDI  
Member of Congress

  
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON  
Member of Congress

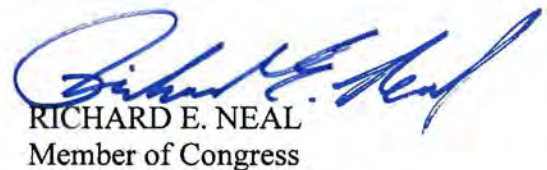
  
PETER VISCLOSKY  
Member of Congress

  
KEITH ELLISON  
Member of Congress

  
YVETTE CLARKE  
Member of Congress

  
NANETTE BARRAGAN  
Member of Congress

  
G. K. BUTTERFIELD  
Member of Congress

  
RICHARD E. NEAL  
Member of Congress

  
EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON  
Member of Congress

*Tulsi Gabbard*

TULSI GABBARD

Member of Congress





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Nanette Barragan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1320 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Barragan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

Regarding the *Order*, I would make several important points.

*First*, the *Order* affected only nine of the more than 900 carriers participating in the Lifeline program—that's less than 1%. Nor did the *Order* affect the designation of Lifeline broadband carriers by state commissions; that process proceeds apace.

*Second*, eight of the nine affected carriers had no Lifeline customers.

*Third*, the prior Commission disregarded the well-established process for approving applications like these. The National Tribal Telecommunications Association filed a petition for reconsideration pointing out that several of the providers never complied with their obligation under our rules to coordinate their applications with Tribes. These Tribal representatives thus requested that the designations be reversed. Moreover, two providers' designations were improperly granted prior to the public comment deadline for filing comments—that is, before the public even had a full and fair chance to weigh in on the designation. This curtailed the public's ability to participate in these proceedings and limited the Commission's ability to consider all designation criteria with a fulsome record. Whatever one thinks of the merits of these applications, that action was plainly improper.

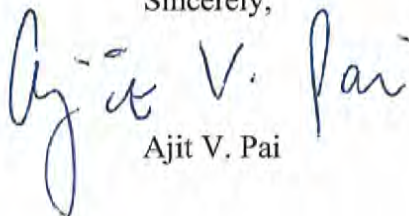
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*Lastly*, every dollar that is spent on subsidizing somebody who doesn't need the help by definition does not go to someone who does. That means that the Commission needs to make sure that there are strong safeguards against waste, fraud, and abuse before expanding the program to new providers. But our federal safeguards are insufficient: My investigation last year into these matters revealed that providers could indiscriminately override checks that are supposed to prevent wasteful and fraudulent activities. (These checks include common-sense steps like verifying the identity of would-be Lifeline recipients.) From October 2014 until June 2016, wireless resellers had overridden such safeguards 4,291,647 times in total. The investigation also uncovered other loopholes, including one that let a company claim subsidies for approximately 22,000 phantom subscribers each month in the state of Michigan. And the National Verifier—a new database intended to verify eligibility to participate in the Lifeline program—does not currently exist and will not start operating until the end of 2017. Further, it is not scheduled to cover all states until 2019. We need to make sure that safeguards are strong and effective in order to direct subsidies to American consumers who most need the help.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable G.K. Butterfield  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2080 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Butterfield:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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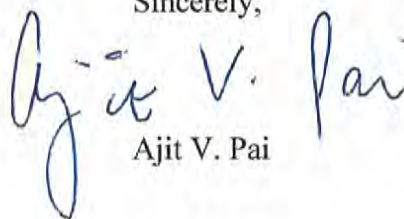
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Matt Cartwright  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1034 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cartwright:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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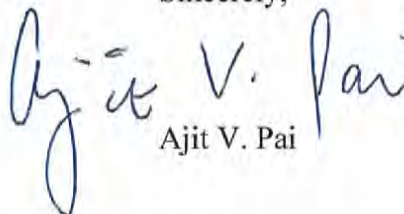
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Katherine M. Clark  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1415 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clark:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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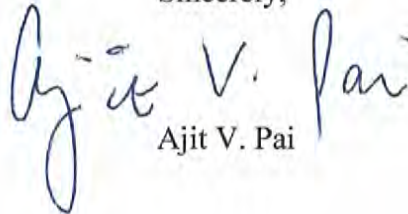
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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Ajit" written in a large, flowing script, and "V. Pai" written in a smaller, more compact script to its right.

Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2058 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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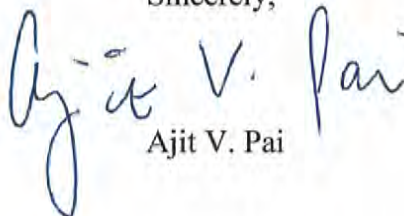
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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Ajit" written in a cursive-like script and the last name "Pai" in a more upright, blocky style. The middle initial "V." is written in a simple, clear font between the first and last names.

Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Steve Cohen  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2404 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cohen:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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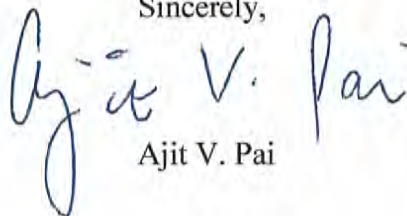
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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Keith Ellison  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2263 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ellison:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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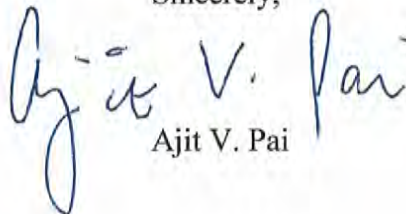
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
241 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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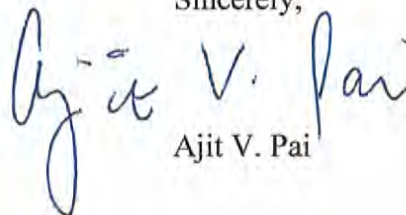
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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1433 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Gabbard:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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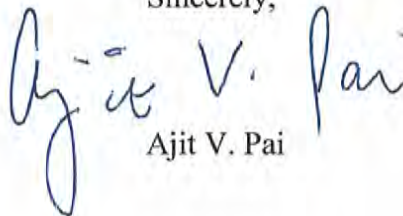
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable John Garamendi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2438 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Garamendi:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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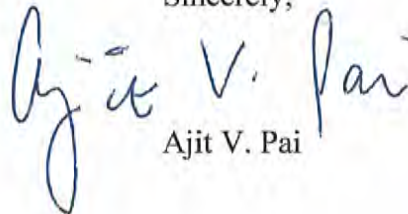
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1511 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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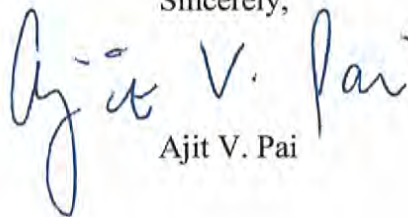
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal  
U.S. House of Representatives  
319 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Jayapal:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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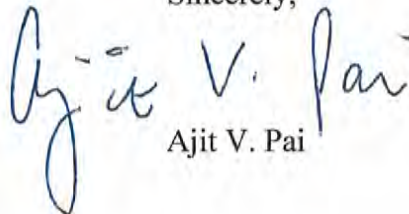
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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

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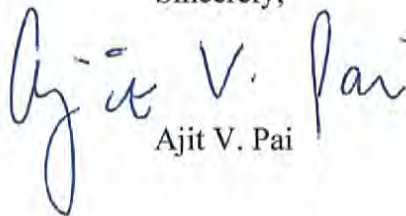
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*Lastly*, every dollar that is spent on subsidizing somebody who doesn't need the help by definition does not go to someone who does. That means that the Commission needs to make sure that there are strong safeguards against waste, fraud, and abuse before expanding the program to new providers. But our federal safeguards are insufficient: My investigation last year into these matters revealed that providers could indiscriminately override checks that are supposed to prevent wasteful and fraudulent activities. (These checks include common-sense steps like verifying the identity of would-be Lifeline recipients.) From October 2014 until June 2016, wireless resellers had overridden such safeguards 4,291,647 times in total. The investigation also uncovered other loopholes, including one that let a company claim subsidies for approximately 22,000 phantom subscribers each month in the state of Michigan. And the National Verifier—a new database intended to verify eligibility to participate in the Lifeline program—does not currently exist and will not start operating until the end of 2017. Further, it is not scheduled to cover all states until 2019. We need to make sure that safeguards are strong and effective in order to direct subsidies to American consumers who most need the help.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Hank Johnson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2240 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

Regarding the *Order*, I would make several important points.

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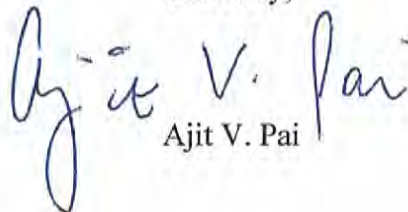
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Rohit Khanna  
U.S. House of Representatives  
513 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Khanna:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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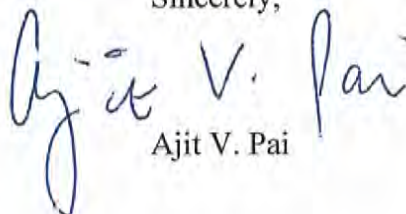
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Ron Kind  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1502 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kind:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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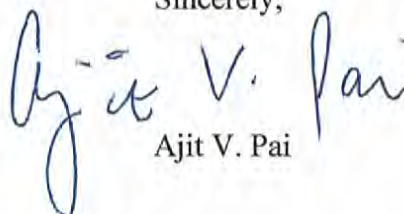
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
515 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Krishnamoorthi:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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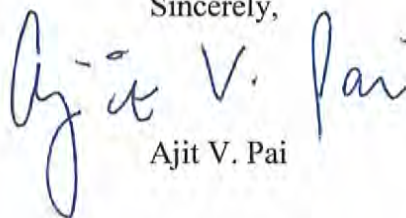
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Barbara Lee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2267 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lee:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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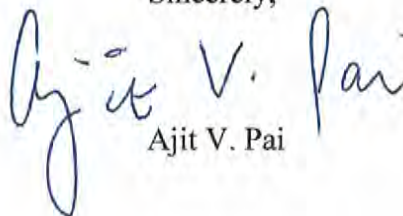
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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Ted Lieu  
U.S. House of Representatives  
236 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lieu:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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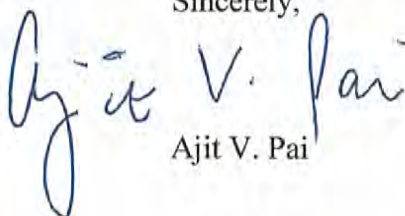
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1401 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lofgren:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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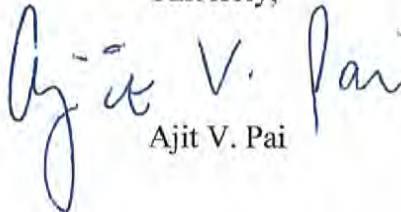
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Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Jim McGovern  
U.S. House of Representatives  
438 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McGovern:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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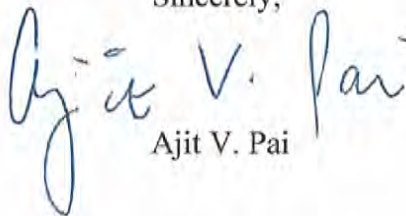
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2234 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Meeks:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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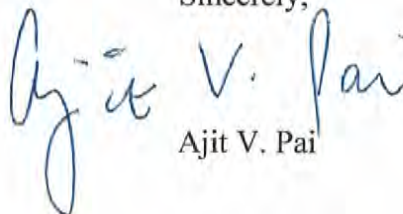
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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Grace Meng  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1317 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Meng:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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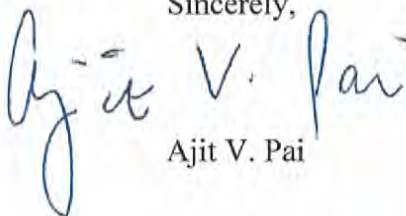
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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Gwen Moore  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2252 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Moore:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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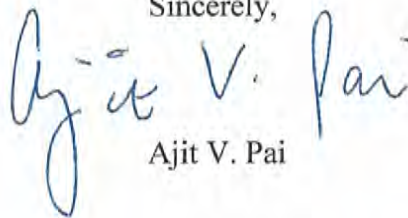
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2109 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Nadler:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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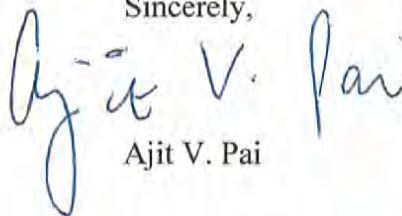
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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Richard E. Neal  
U.S. House of Representatives  
341 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Neal:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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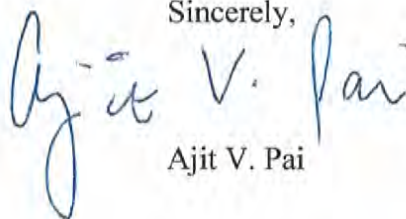
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2136 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Norton:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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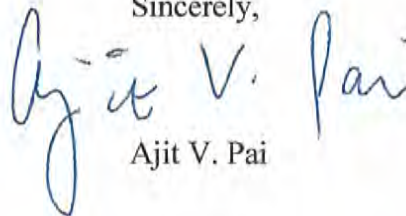
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta  
U.S. House of Representatives  
228 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Panetta:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

Regarding the *Order*, I would make several important points.

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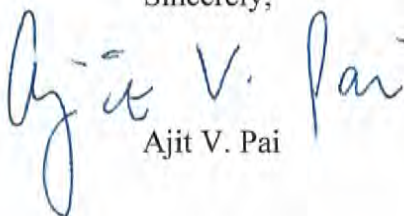
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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Mark Pocan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1421 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pocan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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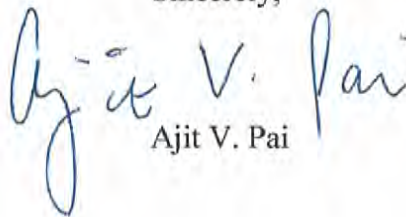
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Jared Polis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1727 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Polis:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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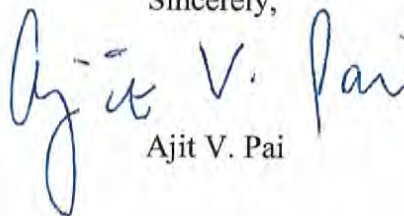
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
431 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Raskin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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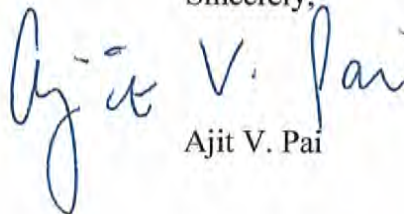
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2188 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rush:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

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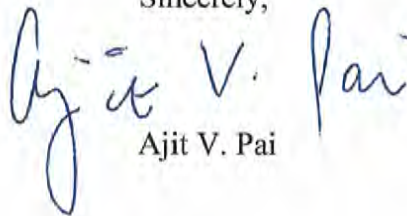
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Jose E. Serrano  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2354 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Serrano:

Thank you for your letters regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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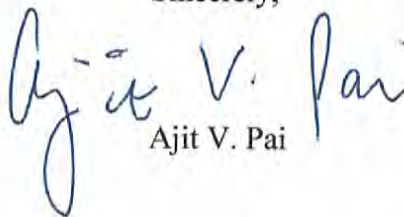
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Darren Soto  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1429 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Soto:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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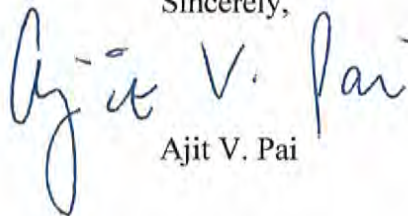
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Jackie Speier  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2465 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Speier:

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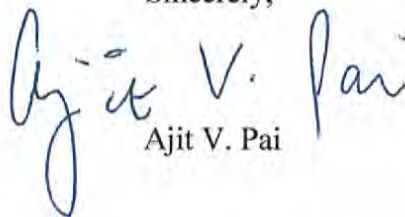
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Eric Swalwell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
129 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Swalwell:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireline Competition Bureau's *Order on Reconsideration*, which affected nine companies' participation in the Lifeline program. I appreciate your views, which will be entered into the record of the proceeding.

One of my main goals as FCC Chairman is closing the digital divide. And I recognize unaffordability as a key barrier to digital opportunity. Last September, I explained when announcing my Digital Empowerment Agenda that "[a]lthough gigabit services and mobile broadband are becoming common features of wealthier, metropolitan areas, they aren't universal." There is a real digital divide in our country, and as we seek to address this problem, I believe the Lifeline program is an important tool for helping to connect all Americans.

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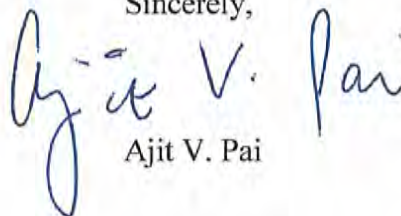
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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Mark Takano  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1507 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Takano:

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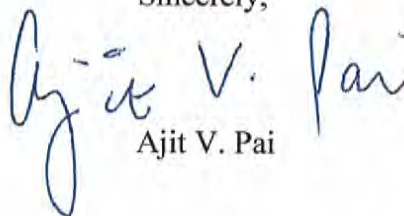
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Juan C. Vargas  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1605 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Vargas:

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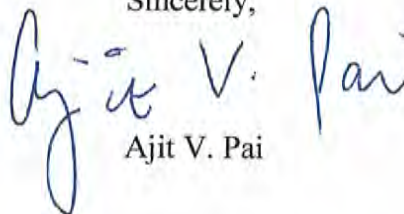
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2328 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Visclosky:

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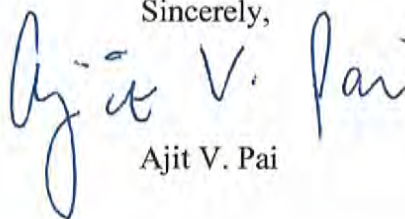
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Peter Welch  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2303 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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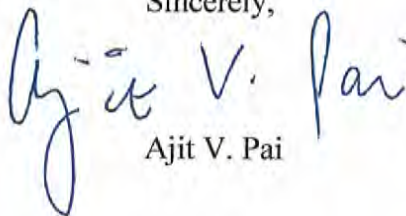
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 22, 2017

The Honorable John Yarmuth  
U.S. House of Representatives  
131 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Yarmuth:

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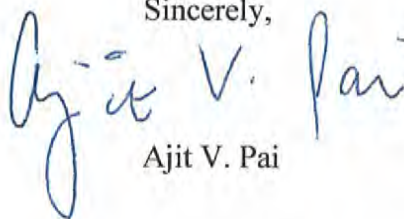
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